The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accents and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

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WHOLE NO. 2004 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 39, NO. 36

As We See It

The following is excerpted from a radio interview by James G. Crowley, news commentator, with Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat, of Alabama, author of housing legislation to provide decent homes for the nation's middle-income families. The interview was heard on "As I See It," the AFL radio program broadcast each Tuesday evening by the American Broadcasting Co.:

By JOHN J. SPARKMAN
United States Senator from Alabama

There are 6 different title in the middle-income housing bill. Briefly, they are:

1. The first title extends what we know as FHA insurance of home mortgage loans.

2. The second title provides for the disposal of permanent and temporary war and veteran housing.

3. The third title provides for loans to nonprofit cooperative for building housing.

4. The fourth title liberalizes the present GI Home Loan Program.

5. The fifth title makes available to educational institutions of higher learning funds for the construction of housing for married students and faculty.

6. The sixth title contains miscellaneous provisions, one of which makes $20 million available for the handling of the housing problems of persons displaced housing.

Where a group of people, primarily veterans, band themselves together in a nonprofit organization and agree to set up a plan for building their own housing, the bill provides that the government may make loans to that cooperative, very much like the government now makes loans to farmers' cooperatives for different purposes, rural electric cooperatives and cooperatives of many different kinds.

People opposed to the,direct loan plan talk about it being something new; about our changing our method of doing business, when, as a matter of fact, throughout the years the government has made direct loans.

I suppose one of the most popular programs in this country is the rural electrification cooperative program. That program has been built up on direct loans from the government to nonprofit cooperatives of farmers and other people who wanted to band themselves together for the purpose of obtaining electric current.

We lend the money to those farm cooperatives for electric purposes at 2 percent interest. In the housing bill we have made the interest veterans 3 percent interest.

I want to make 2 points clear: the plan is self-liquidating and involves no subsidy whatsoever from the government.

Many of the papers in the country have editorialized against the plan and referred to it as "socialized credit," but I don't remember any such attack as that on farm cooperatives or REA loans, for example.

I don't remember that businessmen ever objected to those loans when they needed them. Yet, the American Bankers Association committee has unofficially before the Senate committee in objection to these direct housing loans.

I think it is just easier for them to say "socialism" than to say that they really think it out on its merits. They said, of course, we have provided direct loans for other activities but not for housing.

As a matter of fact, in 1944 when we passed the GI Bill of Rights, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, we provided a direct loan plan for the veteran returning from service might make application to the federal government for a loan directly, for the purpose of building a home on a farm or helping him to acquire a farm.

Nobody ever charged that with being socialistic, yet we certainly were providing direct loans to the farm veterans for housing purposes. But when it is proposed: "Let's make the same kind of provision for the veteran in town," the idea immediately becomes "socialistic." It just simply doesn't stand up, to my way of thinking.

All of our government loan programs have proved successful, far beyond anybody's hopes. Even the Home Loan Corporation, for example, while in liquidating now, is showing a profit to the United States Government.

In this bill we are trying to provide a self-liquidating housing program for everybody with incomes above the level that would entitle them to public housing. That is, for veterans and nonveterans alike, with incomes insufficient to enable them either to rent or to buy the housing built under present high cost circumstances.

Our reason for writing in the Title 3 provision for loans to cooperatives is because about a third of our people in this country, about a third of our families, have incomes between $2,000 and $3,750.

Families with that income just simply can't afford to buy or to rent a house under present high cost conditions. So, we are providing this low-rate interest, 3 percent, a long period of amortization, not to exceed 50 years. We are making it possible for them through cooperative action to work out some kind of program of self-maintenance to cut down the cost and save money every place possible so we can get rent or mortgage payments down to about $45 to $55 a month, an amount which they can afford to pay.

By 1960, we shall need anywhere from 15 to 18 million new home units in this country; in other words, about a million and a half units a year. We hope that this program put into effect by the bill will help to meet that need under the recently enacted Housing Act of 1949, which provides for public housing, slum clearance, and urban redevelopment. That calls for 810,000 units and a half units a year that we need in order to catch up by 1960.

I am hopeful that the Senate will be able to act on the bill which the committee reported out and that in conference with the House we shall be able to work out a good bill.

Senate Votes Hike In Minimum Pay; Restricts Coverage

Washington.—The Senate voted to increase the hourly minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents and to extend approximately 250,000 workers from the law's coverage.

The action represented a limited victory for labor and is a vast improvement over a House approved measure which established the 75-cent minimum wage rate but would exempt some 1,000,000 workers from its provisions.

The bill now goes to conference where it is hoped Senate leaders will be able to reduce the number of exemptions approved by the House.

Senator Claude E. Pepper, floor manager for the bill, expressed regret at the restricted coverage, but declared the legislation was a "forward step."

It is estimated that under the Senate version of the bill about 1,250,000 low-paid workers will receive wage increases which will add more than $500,000,000 annually to the nation's purchasing power.

Pepper predicted that after the measure becomes law a follow-up drive will be launched to bring other specific to additional millions. Nearly 22,000,000 workers are covered by existing legislation.

In addition to increasing the minimum wage rate, the House and Senate measures strengthen the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and give the wage-hour administrator authority to sue for wages on behalf of aggrieved employes.

Under the House measure, truck drivers were successful in beating down all efforts of Southern Democrats to provide for lifting the minimum wage for this group of workers.

The principal Senate exemption was essential labor amendments. This removes employes of most retail and service establishments from the law if more than 50 percent of their annual dollar sales are made in the state where they are located. An amendment by Senator George further exempted retail establishments which make or process the goods they sell while another exempted three refueling bulge materials for farm or home construction. Cotton gin employes and workers in small contract telegraph offices also were exempted.

AFL Pledges Help To European Labor

Washington.—AFL President William Green pledged anew that the American Federation of Labor will continue its assistance to the free trade unions of Europe in their great efforts to establish economic recovery and to defeat attempts of the Communists to spread the tenacles of totalitarianism.

A special message of greeting to European workers on the occasion of Labor Day, Mr. Green said:

"In 1994 the Congress of the United States passed a law making Labor Day a national holiday. This official act approving a practice labor had instituted in 1882. This is the day on which the people of America pay tribute to American labor.

"This year the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor wish to share this tribute with you. You have fought, we have, for freedom. In recent years your fight was made harder. The totalitarian ideologies that threatened to overrun your country, the Communist menace in weakening your will to remain free—to keep your trade union movement free.

"We have watched your struggle and tried to help you fight your way out of the dungeon of war—which all you were threatened from within by those who would serve the totalitarian regime to the east.

"We wish today to repledge to you, solemnly and sincerely, our continued assistance.

"We hold for you, and for us, the highest hope and belief that the new international organization of free trade unions will unite the world of free labor movement. Once so united, it will be impossible to prevent our progress in promoting the welfare of workers as an integral part of national world welfare.

"And we wish too to reaffirm our continued support and cooperation to the newly established committee—and you may regain self-dependence.

"We are certain, too, that out of the Marshall Plan will come a more unified Europe—economically and politically. Then will come the real peace that we have all longed for and fought for and will that peace, the dignity of mankind will have been restored. Peace labor will then be assured. The right to work, to live decently, to worship freely, will be a right belonging to all men.

"These are our hopes on this Labor Day in 1949. These are our beliefs. These are the things we look forward to a future that will be peaceful and secure.

AFL CHEMICAL WORKERS WIN NEW WAGE BOOST

Binghampton, N. Y.—Acting division of General Aniline & Film Corp. granted 1,500 production workers represented by the AFL International Chemical Workers Union a 5-cent hourly pay increase under a new contract.

Green Assails 'Destructive' Forces; MacGowan Urges Farm-Labor Action

Sec'y Brannan Joins In Strong Appeal For Accord

Chicago.—Charles J. MacGowan, president of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, and Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, appealed jointly for solid farm-labor action to promote an expanding American economy.

The prominent leaders in their respective fields addressed a capacity Labor Day dinner audience in the Stevens Hotel here in a meeting sponsored by the Cook County Labor's League for Political Education.

Joseph D. Keenan, director of the national LLPE, served as toastmaster and introduced the speakers who were heard nation-wide over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System. The celebration was the first Labor Day dinner sponsored by LLPE since its organization as the political arm of the Illinois Federation of Labor.

The speakers stressed the theme that the interests of farmers and labor groups are inextricably tied up with the general prosperity of the nation. They urged unity of action to bring about an eye of full employment and full production for the benefit of all.

On this note, Mr. MacGowan declared:

"Without a sound agricultural economy, the United States would be deprived of their greatest market and would become a breeding ground for poverty and suffering occur. With unemployment increased among factory workers, the farmer, in turn, loses his market for the things which he produces. A nation, to be prosperous, must have full employment in the great ways in the cities and full employment with good prices for the farmer."

* * *

Assailing the miserable record of the 81st Congress on issues designed to further economic expansion and promote stability, the AFL leader declared:

"Therefore, with the issues clearly defined, it becomes the sacred duty of both the farmer and the wage earner to join hands and unite actively and in the elimination from Congress of those public servants of corporate wealth and elect in their stead men and women of capacity who understand the problems of the nation's people. Congressmen and Senators who will support and vote for the Brannan Plan, who will take steps to rid the evils which now beset our whole national economy, evils which, if not curbed will produce a depression that would be worse than anything we have ever experienced. Let us do anything we witnessed during the thirties.

"Greedy corporations never made greater profits than they made. Distressed farmers and hungry workers never suffered more than today."

Secretary Brannan said that the responsibility for our national future rests particularly on the backs of farmers and workers since they are the two groups that have contributed to provide our people with full dinner pails and satisfied stomachs.

"Unite upon slum clearance, in health and in housing.

"United upon adequate social security for all the people.

"United in the task to form unite in brotherhood—for this is the basic foundation of peace."

SENATE UNIT APPROVES CARSON FOR FTC POST

Washington.—By a vote of 8 to 4, the Senate Committee on Foreign and Interstate Commerce confirmed the presidential nomination of John Carson, codirector of the Washington office of the Cooperative League and veteran Washington newsman, to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

Only votes in opposition to the confirmation were those of Senators John Bricker of Ohio, Owen Brewster of Maine, Homer Capehart of Indiana and Clyde Reed of Kansas.

Note to Editors

In view of the Labor Day holiday and in order to give full and prompt coverage to Labor Day news, the Tuesday edition of the AFL News Service is being issued in advance of the regular publication date.

The supplement edition of Friday, September 2, is being omitted.

Excerpts From Green's Labor Day Address

First and foremost among the hateful, corroding and inhuman influences of our age, I place World Communism.

I accuse World Communism of seeking power at any price, of keeping alive the threat of war, at a time when the human race recognizes that war is the greatest curse and destroyer of mankind, and of exterminating human freedom and liberty over vast areas of the earth by the most cruel and forceful methods imaginable.

Finally, I accuse World Communism of reviving slave labor on a mass basis, thereby destroying the dignity of the individual and reducing him to the status of a prisoner of the state, without a soul, without a mind of his own, without a reason for existence.

* * *

When the last war ended, the American Federation of Labor foresaw the strategy of the Communists. We anticipated what would happen—and did happen in Czechoslovakia—if the Soviet forces were able to capture control of organized labor in Europe. We, therefore, urged and agreed with the American authorities of our own country to help and encourage the prompt revival of free trade unions in Germany.

We sent some of our ablest men across the ocean to see that the job was done right. We gave money, equipment and moral support to the rebuilding of the free trade union movements of Italy and France and other nations.

Against fearful odds, we combatted Soviet attempts to enlist European workers in opposition to the Marshall Plan.

We exposed the hypocritical propaganda of the Communist leaders; we upheld the honor and integrity of America's policies, and we won the fight.

Without the support of labor, the European Recovery Program could never have succeeded. The Communists sought to undermine that support through the power of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The American Federation of Labor consistently refused to join that organization because we recognized it as a Communist front.

Now the World Federation of Trade Unions has fallen apart, thoroughly discredited and almost completely destroyed as a Communist-dominated movement. And the free trade unions of 50 nations, with the enthusiastic support and encouragement of the American Federation of Labor, are coming together and will form a new international organization in defense of democracy at a conference in London next December.

The American Federation of Labor, which has never harbored or tolerated Communism within its own ranks, leads the new determination to fight the Communist menace worldwide. It is a healthy trend, one which I venture to predict will promote the eventual unification of all organized labor in this country and in the free world.

* * *

But Communism is only one of the twin evils which beset our times. The other is Toryism, promoted by a reactionary combination in Congress.

Time by time, I have had occasion in the course of the Forum to point out to you press and prohibit the natural instincts and desires of all free Americans to improve their economic lot and to provide security for their children.

Now the World Federation of Trade Unions has fallen apart, thoroughly discredited and almost completely destroyed as a Communist-dominated movement. And the free trade unions of 50 nations, with the enthusiastic support and encouragement of the American Federation of Labor, are coming together and will form a new international organization in defense of democracy at a conference in London next December.

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* * *

So far, the keynote for the Tory campaign is the empty, barren, sterile charge that the progressive legislative program favored by labor and espoused by President Truman would change the American way of life and lead to statism.

Time and now I brand that charge as utterly false. It is unadulterated propaganda designed to mislead the American people and to dodge the real issues.

The American Federation of Labor is opposed to statism because we oppose both a dictatorship of the right and a dictatorship of the left. We have never and we will never advocate a program which would undermine the American way of life. On the contrary, we are firmly convinced that our progressive program is a sound middle-of-the-road policy, which will strengthen the free enterprise system, reinforce the economy of our country and make American freedom and democracy more secure and more meaningful to the American people."

Keenan Says Press Drive on British Linked to U. S. Anti-Labor Campaign

Washington.—The anti-British campaign now being waged in the daily newspapers was linked directly to the drive of employer interests in this nation against the legislative gains of organized labor, Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, said.

In a Labor Day radio address over WMAL here, Keenan said that the same foes of labor who have opposed every progressive labor measure, minimum wage, better social security, and a national health program have embarked on a propaganda campaign against Britain's socialist government as a threat against American workers."

To counteract these anti-labor tactics and to win victory in the battle for progressive legislation, Keenan said, LLPE chief called upon each and every union member to take a more active part in political affairs.

"Remember that in the coming 5 more liberal Senators and 20 more liberal Representatives will be needed to surrender the reactionary coalition power," Keenan declared in his address.

Not until these election victories are won, he said, "can we be assured that this unholy alliance will disintegrate and cease to control our national life."

Commenting on the series of newspaper stories castigating the British system of life, Mr. Keenan said:

"They declare that the British must pay more and more for their support of their social welfare programs, and that British living standards are 20 percent cut in wages.

"A reduction in the standard of living does not solve any problems, as we found out in 1932 and 1933. People were laid off from their jobs, costs were cut and cut, and cutting costs finally closed all the banks in the country.

"This anti-British campaign is a danger to both business and labor in this country. It is the same old argument that we must not have an expanding economy, that we cannot afford old-age pensions, medical care or good housing.

"All of us who believe in an expanding economy with full employment and high wages, with decent profits at higher wages, must fight this latest device of the 'shrinking minded.'

Warning that it is not too early to begin preparations for the 1950 election campaign, Mr. Keenan declared:

"Good citizens have their duty every 4 year in which to vote. Be an active Register! That is the first law of democracy. Be sure to vote.

"If your city has permanent registration, use it. Register early and quietly, and your friends—register so that they can vote with you.

"If there is no permanent registration in your area—make plans now to register yourself, your family and your friends when the law permits you to do so.

"Between elections, good citizens should pay close attention to what is happening in their Congressional and state legislatures—in their city councils and county governments. Take it upon yourself to let your neighbors know what is going on—for and against the people. Make sure also that you get the right votes of your representatives.

"We in the labor movement are working with all the members of the community for legislation in the interest of life, for America and now we do we cooperate with our legislative friends—we work together with all the liberal forces in American politics, and regardless of party. We can remain strong only as long as its working people are strong.

"On this Labor Day of 1949—remembering what happened last November as a result of labor's efforts—we pledge to the people of the United States that through the work and cooperation of every trade unionist—we can defeat once and for all the forces that are threatening to drag down the standards of the American people."

Chicago AFL Teamsters' Unions Win Wage Hike For 1,600 Oil, Gas Drivers

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—A 10-cent hourly wage increase was won for 1,600 gasoline and oil drivers of the AFL teamsters' unions in Chicago after a strike of 21 days, resisted bitterly by the giant corporations of the American oil industry.

Nine local unions, led by the cartage drivers union, Local 706, struck Aug. 10 for a 25 cent raise. Most of the small independent gasoline distributors in the city signed up before the strike but the major oil companies, such as Standard, Phillips, Sinclair and the others, all of them better able to pay the raise, took a 3-cent offer.

From the start, the union made special provisions to keep gasoline available to doctors, ambulances, hearses and needed public services. There was a temporary inconvenience to the general public, but the sale of gasoline to ordinary motorists was always normal in volume during the last days of the strike.

Management of the strike taxed the ability of the teamsters' experienced leaders, as the struck major companies operate with independents in the fields of refining and retailing, as well as in distribution.

As the strike continued against the major companies, independents began to put the union's terms began distributing gasoline to fill the shortage. But the union shut off distribution completely and started all over when cheating independents were caught selling gasoline to filling stations controlled by the major companies.

After a warning, the independents were given drivers to start up again a day later. There was some sentiment among drivers for a complete shutdown, but the counsel of Henry G. Burger, international representative of the IBT, and H. E. Wood, secretary-treasurer of Local 705, prevailed. The union made arrangements under which independent distributors supplied off-brand gasoline to about 200 of the 3,500 filling stations in the strike area.

Members of the major companies were closed completely, but the independents, especially the fuel blank, some of them selling more gas in a day than they formerly did in a week at 2 cents Prices to the public were kept at normal, as the union threatened to withdraw drivers from any profiteers.

The union management offered 7½ cents for a flexible workweek, but the union held out for 10 cents. Most of the work is through Friday workweek, which includes Saturday and Sunday off unless overtime is paid.

The final agreement contained the 10 cent hourly raise, the 10-cent raise and provision for a 3-week vacation after 15 years' service, plus other fringe benefits. The pay of drivers from now on will be $1.871 per hour.

After a tentative agreement between negotiating committee the new contract was ratified at a midnight meeting of 1,500 drivers summoned by telephone to a union hall. A few hours later, all the gasoline trucks were rolling again.

DEFENSE SEC'Y JOHNSON HAILS LABOR'S GOALS

Washington.—Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson issued the following statement commenting on Labor Day:

"I welcome the opportunity offered by Labor Day to extend greetings to the American labor on behalf of the Department of Defense and the nation's working men and women, who count by the millions our friends who serve in the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force or who support the armed forces on the production line. Today American workers are making clear their determination that the democracy for which we fought and worked in time of war will prosper in time of peace. The armed forces are united in sharing that determination."

Story Elements, 'Reds' Held Major Foes Of Labor

San Diego, Calif.—Leading American workers in their observance of Labor Day, AFL President William Green called for an intensified effort to resist the "destructive forces" which seek to "tear down all the good that labor created."

The AFL leader singled out worldwide communism as the forces of reaction at home as the "twin evils" which must be checkmated by free, democratic labor unions.

Mr. Green spoke to cheering throngs assembled on Tierra del Fuego Island here for the great Labor Day celebration planned by the delegates of the San Diego Labor Day Jubilee Committee and the AFL Trades Unions. His address was carried to additional millions of listeners over the nationwide facilities of the National Broadcasting Company.

Following his address Mr. Green reviewed a parade of San Diego labor, the progress of organized labor as pictured in the floats depicting theme, "A Century of Historic Progress."

In his forceful address, the AFL leader hailed as the "great revolutionary combination in Congress" which "stands for the things to which the natural instincts and desires of all free Americans to improve their economic lot in life and to provide security for their children."

Mr. Green charged that through their activities, the Tories, while they do not use the term openly, are "in fact described as "first and foremost" among the hateful corroding and inhuman influences of our age," are "promoting the ancient cause" of trying to push working people into the ranks of the Communist Party.

"The Tories profess to love freedom," he said, "but only for themselves, not for labor."

Mr. Green defended the welfare of man as the "true goal of democracy" and repudiated the argument addressed by reactionary elements that it will mean the totalitarian control of American life by the government. He said:

"The keynote of the Tory campaign is the empty, barren, sterile charge that the progressive legislative program favored by labor and espoused by President Truman would change the American way of life and lead to statism.

"Time and now I brand that charge as utterly false. It is unadulterated propaganda designed to mislead the American people and to dodge the real issues.

"The American Federation of Labor is opposed to statism because we oppose both a dictatorship of the right and a dictatorship of the left. We have never and we will never advocate a program which would undermine the American way of life. On the contrary, we are firmly convinced that our progressive program is a sound middle-of-the-road policy, which will strengthen the free enterprise system, reinforce the economy of our country and make American freedom and democracy more secure and more meaningful to the American people.

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He declared:

"Those who believe in the American way of life must fight for the 1950 election and survive only if the American people are given every opportunity to improve their standard of living and to provide security against the social handicaps and economic misfortunes of illness, sickness, discontent and eventually can lead to statism.

Charging that the Tory program is the direct opposite of that, he invited the support of progressive forces in the reactionary elements of American thinking and getting something done.

AFL RADIO ARTISTS UNIT APPROVES VIDEO GROUPING

New York.—The American Federation of Radio Artists, in its annual convention in San Francisco, approved unanimously participation in a television authority to organize video performers.

George Heller, AFRA executive secretary, said the action was taken in support of its parent body, the Associated American Artists of America. The AFRA executive board meeting Sept. 15 if the board grants final approval of the television authority, Heller said, AFRA and 5 other participating unions would start a drive for collective bargaining in the video industry.

The other unions are Actors Equity Association, the American Guild of Variety Artists and the American Guild of Musical Artists.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

Truman Renews Pledge to Fight T-H Law And to Enact All of 'Fair Deal' Program

Washington. — President Truman declared he would make an all-out fight in the 1950 election campaign to obtain a greater Democratic representation in Congress to insure the success of his progressive "Fair Deal" legislative program.

His announcement, made at a press conference, was a follow-up of the 8 fighting Labor Day addresses he delivered in Pittsburgh and Des Moines, in which he called for a farm-labor alliance to turn back the selfish and special interests which are attempting to sabotage his program.

Asserting that most people in the campaign had already begun, Mr. Truman revealed that he would identify those interests and individuals which, he charged, are resorting to name-calling and the use of "scare words" in their opposition to his plans.

In his Pittsburgh speech, delivered before 100,000 cheering admirers, Mr. Truman pledged a fight to the finish to enact all of his program including the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

He renewed his criticism of the Republican 80th Congress and once more endorsed the Democratic Slat.

"There are still many reactionary Senators and Representatives in Congress," he said, "but they are no longer in control as they were last year and the year before. They are still doing all they can to slow up our progress, but they are not able to stop it."

The President characterized "the little man" as the country's backbone and urged an alliance of the city worker and the farmer, the combination that helped him to win the presidency last November.

He declared that the two were responsible for "the tremendous productions of this country's economic system" and said that "no program for the prosperity of the country can ignore the interests of either group." A little later in his speech he said that "we are entitled to the principle that the government should protect the welfare of all the people."

At Des Moines, addressing 6,000 at the convention of the American Veterans of World War II, the Chief Executive warned that the country faced unmanageable and costly crop surpluses and urged a "modernization" of the farm-price support system based on the Brannan production subsidy program.

In making his appeal for the Brannan plan, Mr. Truman called it "the most promising method yet suggested," but left open the possibility that some other system could be substituted.

Mr. Truman told his audience that farms "this year will have more than enough income to spend," and that this would mean employment "for about 2,000,000 workers in the factories and stores and other business establishments."

He asserted that "the prosperity of the whole nation depends upon the national prosperity depended upon agriculture's opportunity" and that "workmen, businessmen and farmers" do.

Both of the speeches the President made in Labor Day observances reminded his hearers of the fighting administration which he and the country is the campaign of last fall. And, he then, he was warmly applauded.

Hemispheric Labor Group Urged To Fight Attempts To Destroy Free Unions

Havana, Cuba.—George P. Delaney, the AFL's international representative, called on delegates to the second congress of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers to defend democracy in Latin America against mounting threats from Communist and Fascist totalitarianism.

Mr. Delaney, who spoke at the opening session on behalf of the entire United States delegation, stressed the need for labor to be free from government control and to rely upon its own economic powers.

The Inter-American Confederation of Workers was formed last year at Lima Peru. It comprises a solid block of labor organizations in the Western Hemisphere opposed to Communism. Latin American affiliate is the Confederation of Labor headed by Vicente Lombardo Toledano of Mexico. The congress represents 13 to 14 million members. Cuba, it was announced, is now represented in the new organization.

The Cuban Labor Ministers, Senators, and other Cabinet members and high civil and military officials attended the formal opening of the congress.

In his address Dr. Delaney, who is international representative of the American Federation of Labor, emphasized that no remarks were made on behalf of the entire delegation from the United States comprising not only the AFL but also the International Association of Machinists and Railway Labor Executives Association.

Mr. Delaney said the need for the establishment of Latin American with President Truman's Point 4 (concerning aid to backward or undeveloped nations) and emphasized that labor in the Western Hemisphere must be free of government control if it was to discharge its historical function.

He announced that the much-discussed establishment of trade union scholarships enabling Latin American unionists to visit the United States to study trade unions collective bargaining, would soon be a reality through an allotment of funds by the United States government.

The Communist newspaper here is carrying on a daily offensive against the meeting. A recent editorial denounced representatives of the AFL, as "a close associate of Latin American Fascism" and as "a mild-mannered native of Italy and lucky Luciano." Mr. Romualdi is a mild-mannered native of Italy and is long-associated with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

"What can you do," remarked Mr. Romualdi, who is accustomed to Communist attacks. "There are no libel laws in Cuba."

Hild, AFM Official, Represents Labor At UNESCO Parley

Washington. — President Truman named George P. Hild, president of the Cincinnati Musicians Association and a member of the executive board of the American Federation of Musicians, as a member of the United States delegation to the 4th general conference of UNESCO in Paris.

Mr. Hild's appointment is evidence of the growing role played by Amer-

OSCAR F. HILD

ican labor in international activities in which the United States is participating.

The U. S. delegation sailed from New York recently for Europe.

Mr. Hild, who has served the Cincinnati in 1901, has devoted his lifetime to service in labor and community affairs. For the past 18 years he has been president of Local 1 of the AFM in Cincinnati in which capacity he has been tremendously successful in improving the wages and working conditions of those musicians in that area. In 1940 he was elected a member of the 5-man executive board of the AFM.

In addition to his active trade union career, Mr. Hild was the sparkplug behind the Cincinnati Summer Opera during its struggles to survive the depression of the early 30's. That it was successful is due in no small measure to Mr. Hild's role as general manager, a post which he has held for the last 16 years.

In recognition of his accomplishments, the Cincinnati College of Music conferred on Mr. Hild the honorary degree of doctor of music in 1941.

This nation has been "largely, though not wholly," freed of "the contrast of abject poverty and great wealth in the country." Eisenhower pointed out, and he credited this "to the sweat, the organized sweat, of the labor movement in a competitive economy."

"To the achievements of organized labor, my 4 brothers and I—all of us present at this meeting—can testify, remembering the 84-hour week and the skimpy wages of our youth," the general declared.

Employment Production in Sharp Rise; Business Prospects Held Encouraging

Washington.—Reports released by federal agencies showed a marked improvement in employment and industrial production following a summertime slump.

The heartening news was welcomed by organized labor, plagued by lay-offs and reduced workweeks which had reached acute stages in some sections of the nation.

According to Census Bureau figures, unemployment dropped from a 368,000 in August, while unemployment fell from slightly above the 4,000,000 mark to 3,889,000.

The federal industrial production index for the month jumped about 7 points to recover nearly all of the loss during July.

Total civilian employment did not rise appreciably during August, because of the drop in agricultural jobs due to the "usual midsummer slack period," the Census Bureau reported said.

Chairman Edwin G. Nourse of the Council of Economic Advisers told reporters that current business psychology was encouraging and that the country got by the "unfavorable aspects of last spring" without letting the situation get out of hand. He also said the country now was experiencing the normal seasonal pick-up and the question was whether the trend would continue seasonal, go above normal, or fall below that level.

Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer, in announcing the August employment figures of the Census Bureau, said, "the marked increase in nonagricultural employment and the more-than-seasonal decline in agricultural employment reflect a lessening evidence of a leveling off of the recent downward adjustment in our economy. The decline we have experienced earlier this year in business activity has been moderate.

"We still have a high level of production, employment and sales while the amount of unemployment and part-time employment is a matter of concern, particularly to the families affected, we are in a fundamentally sound condition for continuing our economic advance," Mr. Sawyer said.

The rise in nonagricultural employment reflected gains among skilled workers, was one of the largest recorded for a single month in the last several years. In spite of that increase, however, nonfarm employment was still about 1,250,000 below the all-time high reached in August, 1948.

In analyzing the drop in unemployment, the Census Bureau said this resulted in part because many jobless youngsters had found work or left the labor market.

The total civilian employment figure was given at 59,249,000, compared with 59,720,000 in July.

The Census Bureau also reported that according to preliminary results of a survey by the unemployment in August, a large number of persons were finding short time jobs. However, the bureau said there apparently had been the normal seasonal pick-up later since May.

In August about 1,250,000 persons with regular jobs were working short workweeks of 1 to 14 hours a week because of slack work, layoffs, job changes, and other economic factors. In addition, about 1,000,000 who had part-time jobs wanted and could have accepted fulltime employment. The number other account groups was about double the total in similar surveys in March and September of 1948.

Protests Grow On U. S. Use Of Non-Union Greenbacks

Washington.—Government agencies responsible for printing United States currency on nonunion presses have been told to take "corrective steps" immediately by Senator James E. Murray of Montana.

Mr. Murray was the fifth Senator to demand an end of nonunion money. Similar demands were voiced previously by Senators Claude Pepper of Florida, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, Paul Douglas of Illinois and Matthew M. Neely of West Virginia.

"I was shocked," Mr. Murray said, "to learn that The Paper Maker that United States currency is printed on paper made by nonunion workers.

"I thought it was established beyond any doubt that the political and economic health of this country requires strong labor unions. This fundamental principle has long been recognized by the Democratic party and was the basis of the Wagner act passed in 1935.

"It was therefore with considerable amazement that I learned that the federal government itself, through one of its agencies, is engaged in practice which threatens trade union organization.

"I hope that the government agencies responsible for this practice will immediately take the necessary corrective steps and that in the future their purchasing practice will be designed to encourage rather than to discourage trade union organization."

Use of nonunion paper in all currency was disclosed early this year by The Paper Maker, published by the AFL's international Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

AFL Urges Aid For Britain in Crisis; Her Prosperity Held World Peace Key

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for
AFL News Service

New York.—The cold fires and influence of the American Federation of Labor has been placed squarely behind the British Labor government in its current negotiations with the United States.

The American Federation of Labor is doing this step through the Free Trade Union Committee because "the interest of human freedom, world peace and prosperity are bound up with our own economic well-being and security can have no sound foundation save of organized effort with our utmost to have our country aid Britain in the long-range solution of her basic economic problems."

The statement issued by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, came as the negotiations between the British and American governments started in Washington with the arrival of Foreign Minister Bevin and Chancellor Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer. They were meeting with Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder.

The AFL said it is clear that unless Britain is aided in this crisis "neither Europe, nor Asia, nor Africa nor even America can be secure against the further encroachments and continued aggression of totalitarian Russia and its worldwide conspiracy for subjugation."

"Yes, Britain desperately needs our aid," the declaration said. "But the basic problem is not the relative size of 52 distinguished citizens who will constitute the delegation at the White House on September 8 and 9 headed by Secretary of Commerce Charles Oscar R. Ewing, federal security administrator, or whether the more than 100 occasional committees are two AFL representatives, Matthew Woll, president, and national Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Boris Shishkin.

British propaganda only serves anti-democratic forces that are feverishly trying to create the impression that believing on social and political collapse in the free countries and to fan the flames of "Another global conflagration."

To help the British people and achieve worldwide prosperity the AFL has committed itself to the following 10-point program:

1. Immediate dollar assistance through the International Monetary Fund.

2. Further relief of its stockpiling program of strategic commodities.

3. Continuation of the Marshall Plan defense systems; dollar allotments; and training power in backward countries; reorganization of the economy of continental Europe into a Western Union; ending of uncertainty as to the future of Germany; creation of a permanent European-American Council to promote the balancing of economic relations between the two.

The AFL statement was broadcast to the world over the Voice of America network in many languages. Of these items the most significant is the one in which the AFL struck out at the "Fascist" and "Red" reactionaries who have been making the most vicious legislation who have charged that these unions are largely responsible for Britain's dollar crisis.

"Such charges have been made by the enemies of all progressive labor in the free countries of the United States," the AFL document declared. "Both Communist and the Taft-Hartley Act, the opponents of the Marshall Plan in free countries, those who want to hostile our country and destroy our most rigid system of state controls and regimentation, are all united in hacking the present government of Britain which is the last bulwark of the British labor movement.

"When the Communists and the Taft-Hartleyites attack progressive legislation in the United States, trying to kill two birds with one stone, they are helping the enemies of British Labor government and its associates. At the same time they are hitting out at the program of progressive social legislation opposed and fought for by the AFL and the progressive labor movement in the United States.

"British labor can rest assured that American labor sees through this game."

Eisenhower Lauds Labor As Bulwark of the Free

St. Louis.—One of the world's great generals, Dwight D. Eisenhower, now president of Columbia University, regards American labor as a great force for the protection of democracy. He so informed the American Bar Association at its annual convention here.

"Make no mistake about it, no group in our country is more firmly dedicated to the retention and development of our system of private competitive enterprise than is American labor," General "Ike" told the lawyers.

American workers, he said, have disproved the Karl Marx dogma of class struggle and "with the vigorous cooperation of labor they have produced in this country a standard of living far beyond anything that even a generation of it, he asserted.

Ex-Labor Editor Gets Top ECA Post

Washington. — Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman and Special Representative W. Averell Harriman announced the appointment of Jay J. Krieg as chief of the ECA mission to Greece. Formerly in the foreign service, Krieg was Labor for the joint AFL-CIO newspaper published in Athens.

The appointment becomes effective in the near future, Hoffman and John Nuveen, Jr., who is being transferred from Greece to Germany.

Krieg, prominent in the labor movement, "never left his labor editor post but went to Italy on assignment during the war. He served as chairman of the Italian Labor Committee and a committee of War Production Board before going to Italy. In 1945 he was transferred to the Department of State as labor adviser to the European Coal Organization and subsequently became labor attache for Economic Affairs at London.

Before joining the labor movement, first to William L. Clayton and subsequently to Bernard M. Baruch in their capacities as U. S. representatives in the Economic Commission for Europe.

THOMAS B. EAMES DIES; WAS AFL UNION OFFICIAL

Philadelphia.—Thomas B. Eames, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Glass Bottle Blowers Association of the United States and Canada, died at Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital here. He was 64.

Mr. Eames was formerly president of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, serving for 13 years, including 1939 when he became the first chairman of a special advisory commission, set up in 1931 by the State Labor Commission to study the New Jersey workmen's compensation law and the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him a member of New Jersey National Recovery Administration Board.

He lived for many years in Millville, N. J., where he learned the glass blower's trade in the local factories.

W. VA. STATE FEDERATION REELECTS AFL OFFICIALS

Parkersburg, W. Va.—E. A. Carter, president of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor, was unanimously reelected to that post by delegates attending the federation's annual convention held here recently.

Also reelected were Volney Andrews as secretary-treasurer and the following board members: John Harvie, H. Richard Kennell, A. H. Bishoff, Elisabeth Kerr and R. H. Brooks.

AFL Transit Union Wins Wage Boost To Make Chicago Workers' Rate Tops

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for
AFL News Service

Chicago.—A general wage increase has been granted to 6,000 AFL employes of the municipally-owned Chicago transit system as the result of a pact between the Transit Authority and the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway & Motor Coach Employes.

The agreement provides for a 5-cent raise, retroactive to July 1, when the last contract expired, and an additional 5 cents to become effective Jan. 1, 1950. Future wage negotiators will then be the highest in the transit industry in the area.

The pay for operators of one-man cars will be increased separately by up to $1.65 per hour. Second highest rate in the country is $1.60. It is also negotiated by the Amalgamated. Transit operators in New York are represented by a CIO union. The Chicago agreement was performed the top rate there is $1.44.

Earlier this summer the transit authority won new pension plan, one of the strongest and most liberal in the country, after arbitration award.

The pay raise was agreed upon without arbitration, after negotiations between Harold Budd, new president of the transit authority, and Joseph Keenan, president, and Leo Lyons, Nemara, secretary, of the union's District 308.

The agreement was subject to ratification by the union board and members of the two local unions involved. The transit board approved the contract the next day. Ratification by the membership was considered certain, although a 15-cent raise had been demanded originally.

Division 241 represents employes of when the last contract expired, and an additional 5 cents to become effective Jan. 1, 1950. Future wage negotiators will then be the highest in the transit industry in the area.

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The pay raise was agreed upon

AFL TEAMSTERS' AFFILIATE SIGNS CONTRACT WITH GE

Philadelphia.—A one-year contract with the General Electric Co. has been signed by Local 169, of the AFL's Teamsters Union, representing employes of the company's service department, Bernard J. Mc-Cue, business agent of the union, announced.

Terms of the contract include $1.40 an hour for inside television, radio and appliance workers and $1.50 for outside workers and top seniority for all stewards.

44% OF WAR VETERANS USE SCHOOL AID UNDER GI BILL

Washington.—About 6,000,000 veterans of World War II, 44 percent of the total, had enrolled by June 30 for some sort of education or training under the GI bill or Public Law 16, which provides such opportunities for the disabled, the Veterans Administration said.

The VA said that more than 2,500,000 had enrolled in high schools, vocational and trade schools, business colleges and other similar types of educational institutions below the college level. The rest, 2,000,000 had enrolled for college or university service department, Bernard J. McCue, business agent of the union, an-

FARM PRICES DECLINE MORE THAN FARM COSTS

Washington.—A steady fall in farm prices in recent months has wiped out a price advantage that farmers have held since Pearl Harbor, the Agriculture Department reported.

It said prices received by farmers in mid-August were down 17 points from the record high established 17 months ago but that the prices that farmers must pay were down only about 2 percent from the record high set about a year ago.

Green Hails Truman For Sponsoring Midcentury Conference on Children

Washington.—Trade union families have much to gain for their welfare by giving active support to the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said today in commending President Truman for calling the conference to be held in 1950.

Mr. Green sent the President the following telegram:

"On behalf of the 8,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor, I wish to commend you for calling the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth. I also want to convey to you my own deep personal interest in this tremendously significant conference.

"The men and women who make up our great labor movement know intimately the grave problems which confront parents in making a good life for their children. We are, therefore, anxious to cooperate in carrying out constructive recommendations to increase opportunities for all children."

Miss Dorothy Kenyon, one planning for the midcentury conference, President Truman announced, will be designed to encourage a rather than to discourage trade union organization.

Use of nonunion paper in all currency was disclosed early this year by The Paper Maker, published by the AFL's international Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

REA LOANS STIMULATE FARM ELECTRIFICATION

Washington. — Electricity now is available to 87 percent of all the farms in this country. It is estimated that in two years 96 percent of the nation's farms will be receiving electricity.

Much of the increased electrification of farm properties was accomplished by loans granted by the Rural Electrification Administration to cooperative groups.

There are 200 separate uses for electricity on the farm, and it has been calculated that the national farm markets will absorb 1 billion dollars worth of electric appliances in 5 years.

PUBLIC WELFARE CASES SHOW SMALLER GAINS

Chicago.—Brutlof case loads in 27 cities rose only 1,000 between May-June and July, the American Public Welfare Association reported today. A survey of the same cities for March and April showed relief cases up nearly 7 percent.

Case loads of welfare agencies generally reflect the unemployment situation, the association said. The survey covered only cases of general assistance to the indigent, which are borne entirely by cities, counties and states. It did not include cases involving aid to dependent children, old age assistance, or aid to the blind, which are financed in part by the federal government.

TRUMAN URGES BUSINESS TO HIRE OUSTED WORKERS

Washington. — President Truman urged private employers to provide jobs for the 147,000 persons who are being dismissed by the Defense Department.

Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced recently that for economy reasons the armed forces were planning 132,000 civilian employes and 12,000 reserve officers. Many civilian workers will be navy yards and army facilities throughout the country."

Mr. Truman said he has asked the civil service commission to try to get federal jobs for these employes. But he said it is "unrealistic" to expect that all of them can be moved into vacant jobs in the federal service, since this is being cut down all along the line. Consequently, he said he hoped that private industry will give "full consideration" to the government employes when they look through no fault of their own."

WALLPAPER PACT RENEWED

Washington.—The AFL's United Wallpaper Craftsmen and Workers of America agreed to extend its contract with the wallpaper printing industry for another year without change. The contract calls for hourly rates from $1.70 to $1.87 for craftsmen and $1.13 to $1.23 for semi-skilled workers.

U. S. Workers Lauded For Splendid Job By Mitchell, Chairman of Civil Service

Washington.—Harry B. Mitchell, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, paid a special labor day tribute to the thousands of loyal federal employes.

Mr. Mitchell urged the public to greater understanding and appreciation for the "all-too-often unrecognized" government workers.

The commission chief praised the record of federal jobholders during the war, declaring they "faithfully served their government, many of them in hazardous civilian positions."

"Thousands of others left the federal service to go with the armed forces. They also helped to win the war.

"Today in the difficult postwar period, when we are trying to win the peace and make democracy safe in a world troubled with many ideologies, the federal worker is doing a splendid job.

Labor day by day he serves here and in foreign countries. He sees that the law is administered, that public food is safeguarded, that the forests are protected.

"He guards the airways and highways. He protects investments and the crops. He serves the public in hundreds of useful ways.

"All too often the federal worker is misunderstood. And it is fitting on this 1949 Labor Day that the American people remember their public servants and think well of this group of fellow citizens who labor daily to make their government a vital, helpful part of our American way of life."